

Work program and key dates/events for 2024

The Basel Peace Office undertakes research, program development and public education over a range of issues relating to international peace, nuclear disarmament and global climate protection. In addition, we organise a number of online events and a smaller number of in-person/hybrid events in Basel, at the United Nations in Geneva and New York, and in other key capitals/cities around the world.

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1. Work programs

a. Opportunities for Switzerland to advance peace, nuclear-risk-reduction, disarmament and global climate protection in 2024.

Basel Peace Office will make use of the special opportunities arising in 2024 to encourage and support the Swiss government to take further leadership on peace, nuclear risk-reduction, disarmament and global climate protection. These opportunities arise from, amongst other things, Switzerland continuing to be a member of the UN Security Council until December 2024, the UN Summit of the Future in 2024, the ground-breaking statement from the G20 Bali Summit on the inadmissibility of the threat or use of nuclear weapons, and new openings in advancing nuclear abolition in the UN human rights bodies.

An outline of these opportunities plus proposals for action by the Swiss government are outlined in the working paper [The Doomsday Clock and Switzerland as a neutral country: Opportunities for Switzerland to advance nuclear risk reduction and disarmament in the period 2023-2024](#) / [Chancen für die Schweiz, atomare Risikominderung und Abrüstung für den Zeitraum 2023-2024 voranzubringen](#). BPO will engage directly with the Swiss government (Federal Department of Foreign Affairs in Bern and the Swiss Missions to the UN in Geneva and New York) on the ideas and proposals in the working paper, as well as with Swiss officials and NGOs in events such as the New Agenda for Peace Roundtable in Geneva (Feb 5-6, 2024) and the Swiss FDFA International Cooperation Forum in Basel (April 11-12, 2024).

OTHER PROGRAMS:

b. Abolition 2000

Basel Peace Office (BPO) is a coordinating member of [Abolition 2000](#), the global civil society network to eliminate nuclear weapons. BPO will support the new Abolition 2000 secretariat, help organise the 2023 annual meeting of Abolition 2000 which will take place in February, co-draft and promote Abolition 2000 international appeals and action alerts, co-manage the website and help organise some Abolition 2000 webinars. In addition, we will continue to provide support for Youth Fusion (established as an [Abolition 2000 working group](#)) and co-convene a number of other Abolition 2000 working groups including [Nuclear risk-reduction](#), [Nuclear-Weapon Free Zones](#), [UN Disarmament Agenda and a Nuclear Weapons Convention](#), [Economic Dimensions of Nuclearism](#) (Move the Nuclear Weapons Money) and [Peace, Disarmament and SDGs](#).

c. Basel Peace Forum and PACEY Award

BPO will hold our annual *Intergenerational Forum on Peace, Climate Action and Nuclear Disarmament* on January 26, followed by the [2024 PACEY \(Peace, nuclear Abolition and Climate Engaged Youth\) Award Ceremony](#). This will include presentations from the finalists, voting to determine the three winners, and presentations of the awards.

d. Common security / human security

BPO cooperates with PNND, World Future Council, World Federalist Movement and Youth Fusion to advance human security and common security as more effective security frameworks than the traditional reliance on national and military security and nuclear deterrence. In 2024, we will continue to host the [Common Security platform](#) and advance these security frameworks through research, articles, appeals and events.

e. Earth Trusteeship Initiative

BPO is engaged in the Earth Trusteeship Initiative, a project established by the Right Livelihood College and World Future Council. In 2024, we will advance the principles of Earth Trusteeship at COP29, in the International Court of Justice (see ICJ Advisory Opinion on climate change below), and in the preparatory process for the UN Summit of the Future. One strand of this is the proposal of the UN Secretary General to re-purpose the UN Trusteeship Council to take on governance responsibilities for the global commons (i.e. Antarctica, the oceans, atmosphere, outer space and cyber space).

f. Engaging legislators – PNND

BPO and PragueVision serve as the European and Head offices for [Parliamentarians for Nuclear Non-proliferation and Disarmament](#) (PNND). Key activities for PNND in 2024 will be:

- i) Further national, regional and global events in follow-up to the launch of [Assuring our Common Future: a parliamentary guide to disarmament for security and sustainable development](#);
- ii) Organising the PNND 2024 Assembly in Geneva;
- iii) Organising parliamentary participation and side events at the NPT Prep Com in Geneva;
- iv) Engaging parliamentarians in disarmament through the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) Assembly and OSCE Parliamentary Assembly.

g. Future Policy Awards 2024: Peace for Future Generations

World Future Council is contracting Basel Peace Office to assist in organising the 2024 Future Policy Awards. The theme is Peace for Future Generations. This will involve securing the suitable partner (IPU or the President of the UNGA), outreach for nominations, establishing a jury, preparing a report for the jury on the nominations and organising the awards ceremony.

h. Humanitarian impact, human rights and the law

BPO will continue to promote the humanitarian and legal imperatives to prevent nuclear war and achieve a nuclear-weapon-free world. This includes further implementation of the UN Human Rights Committee 2018 affirmation that nuclear weapons violate the Right to Life, through further [submissions to UN Human Rights bodies](#) challenging States parties nuclear weapons policies in their periodic reviews.

i. ICJ Advisory Opinion on climate change

BPO supports and cooperates with the [Normandy Chair for Peace](#), [World's Youth for Climate Justice](#) and the core group of countries lead by Vanuatu that [launched the UNGA process](#) to achieve an Advisory Opinion from the International Court of Justice on the climate crisis. The case is now in court. We will continue to engage with Switzerland and other UN member states on their written and oral submissions to the Court, and prepare for implementation of the Court's decision near the end of 2024.

j. Korea peace and denuclearization process

BPO is a leading participant (co-organiser) in three initiatives/processes relating to the Korea peace and denuclearization process. These are the 3+3 Coalition for a North-East Asian Nuclear Weapon Free Zone, the annual PyeongChang Odae-san Peace (POP) Dialogue held on the anniversary of the 2018 PyeongChang Winter Olympics which initiated the North/South Summits, and the Korea Peace Network. In 2024, we will play an active role in events and programs of these three initiatives.

k. Legal Alternatives to War (LAW not War)

BPO is a co-founder of [Legal Alternatives to War](#) (LAW not War), a new global campaign to enhance the jurisdiction and use of the International Court of Justice (ICJ) in order to assist countries to resolve international disputes peacefully rather than through recourse to the threat or use of force. In 2024 we will be organizing a number of events, articles and advocacy actions to build greater acceptance of the jurisdiction of the International Court of Justice to resolve international disputes that prove difficult to resolve through diplomacy and other peaceful means.

l. Mayors for Peace

BPO serves as the Representative of Basel in *Mayors for Peace*, with a responsibility to build communication and cooperation between Basel and Mayors for Peace and to implement Mayors for Peace programs in Switzerland. This includes liaising with and building cooperation with the Mayors for Peace secretariat in Hiroshima, the Mayors for Peace European secretariate in Granollers (Spain) and other European Executive Members of Mayors for Peace including Manchester City (UK), Hannover (Germany), Malakoff (France), Biograd na Moru (Croatia) and Ypres (Belgium). An important part of this cooperation is inviting the European Executive Cities to the Basel Peace Forum and BPO side events.

m. Mobilizing an Earth Governance Alliance (MEGA)

In late 2023, Basel Peace Office and partner organizations established [Mobilizing an Earth Governance Alliance](#) (MEGA), a coalition of civil society organizations working in cooperation with like-minded governments and other stakeholders to strengthen existing environmental governance. In 2024, we will be helping to organize a number of events to promote MEGA and the environmental governance [campaigns](#) and [proposals](#) that are part of MEGA.

n. Move the Nuclear Weapons Money

BPO will continue to advance the [Move the Nuclear Weapons Money program](#) through events, social media promotion and publication of a nuclear weapons divestment handbook.

o. NoFirstUse Global

PragueVision and BPO host the secretariat and online platform for [NoFirstUse Global](#), a coalition of over 80 organizations engaging the nuclear armed and allied states to adopt no-first-use policies as a transformational measure in phasing out reliance on nuclear deterrence and achieving a nuclear-weapons-free world. In 2023, BPO will assist in organising key events and program activities for NoFirstUse Global.

p. Nuclear weapons treaties: NPT, TPNW and Nuclear Weapons Convention

The **Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty (NPT)** is the cornerstone multilateral agreement for nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament. BPO will participate in the NPT Preparatory Meeting which takes place in Geneva in August 2024. The Swiss government is part of the *Stockholm Initiative*, a coalition of 16 countries (some non-nuclear and some allied countries) which is promoting nuclear risk reduction and disarmament measures at NPT meetings. In 2024, BPO will continue to liaise with the Stockholm Initiative, as well as co-organise, a number of side events including on nuclear-weapon-free zones, no-first-use, a nuclear weapons convention and nuclear disarmament and human/common security.

The **Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW)** is a treaty negotiated and signed by non-nuclear states. None of the nuclear armed or allied countries are members. As such, it is not able to facilitate nuclear disarmament by these countries. However, it does provide a basis for moving the non-nuclear states to be more active. The treaty itself is very weak on implementation measures. It does not, for example, require the prohibition of transit or financing of nuclear weapons. However, BPO and PNND will continue to encourage parliaments and governments of ratifying (non-nuclear) countries to adopt strong implementing legislation to include these elements, based on the example of the New Zealand nuclear free legislation which was adopted independently of the TPNW.

The **Nuclear Weapons Convention** is a model treaty on the prohibition and elimination of nuclear weapons which includes nuclear armed and allied countries as well as non-nuclear countries. BPO is a convening member of the [Abolition 2000 working group on a Nuclear Weapons Convention](#), which advances uses the NWC approach to engage nuclear armed and allied states in nuclear disarmament. In 2024, this will include production of working papers, events and advocacy.

q. Nuclear Weapon Free Zones – Europe and the Middle East

BPO has been active in building parliamentary and civil society support for a Middle East zone free from nuclear weapons and other WMD. We will continue to monitor and engage where possible in developments and events including through participation in the annual UN Conference on establishing a Middle East WMD free zone, and through building parliamentary support for the proposed zone. In 2024, BPO will also continue to promote discussion on a European NWFZ, including as part of the Abolition 2000 NWFZ working group.

r. Peace and Sport – 2024 Youth Olympics

BPO has developed a proposal with Non-violence International, the Olympism Project and World Future Council on an *Olympic Peace Convocations Initiative: Advancing the Olympic Truce vision*. The proposal envisages a series of convocations (specialized conferences) of Olympic sportspeople and international peace practitioners to take place every two years in conjunction with the Olympic Games. We are currently liaising with the project partners on the proposed inaugural event to be held in-between the 2024 Olympics and the 2024 Para-Olympics in Paris

s. Religions for Peace and other inter-faith work

BPO is a member of the [Abolition 2000 Interfaith Working Group](#). The BPO Director is author of the [Religions for Peace Nuclear Disarmament Resource Guide](#). A German language edition of the Resource Guide was published with the support of Prof Lucas Kundert and the Basel Reformed Evangelical Church in 2017. BPO also cooperates with United Religions Initiative, which in 2022 awarded Youth Fusion with the Gorbachev/Shultz Legacy Youth Award. In 2024, BPO plans to continue participating in inter-faith nuclear disarmament events, promotion of the resource

guide, and engaging religious leaders in our key initiatives including Move the Nuclear Weapons Money and UNFOLD ZERO.

t. UNFOLD ZERO – United Nations initiatives for nuclear disarmament

BPO co-founded [UNFOLD ZERO](#) with Global Security Institute, PNND, Mayors for Peace, PragueVision, the NGO Committee on Disarmament, World Federalists, World Future Council and Aotearoa Lawyers for Peace. In 2024, UNFOLD ZERO will continue to promote UN initiatives and processes through the UNFOLD ZERO [newsletter](#) and [blog](#). And we will continue to organise actions, events and networking platforms including for the [Global Week of Action on Peace, Climate and Nuclear Abolition](#) and other relevant UN Days.

u. UN Summit of the Future

BPO is engaged in the [Coalition for the UN We Need](#) (C4UN) which is facilitating civil society engagement in the [UN Summit of the Future](#) which will take place in September 2024. BPO co-chairs the Peace and International Security strand for C4UN. We are also engaged in the [World Future Council Working Group on the Summit of the Future](#) which is advancing effective policy measures on peace and the rights of future generations. We are also helping to organise the second *Global Futures Forum* (Nairobi, May 2024) as part of developing the civil society networking and advocacy for the UN Summit of the Future.

v. Youth programs including Youth Fusion

BPO will continue its youth internship program to train youth in international diplomacy, policy development and campaign building. BPO will also support and co-manage [Youth Fusion](#), the global youth network of Abolition 2000. We will also continue to participate in the IPU Network of Young Parliamentarians, and advance nuclear disarmament initiatives to young parliamentarians through this network.

2. Key events/dates, 2024

Jan 25-26: Basel Peace Forum, Inter-generational Forum and PACEY Award events. *Basel and online.*

Jan 24-26: Anniversary of UN Resolution 1 (1). Doomsday Clock announcement. *Online*

Feb 2-3: Abolition 2000 Annual Meeting. *Online*

Feb 5-6: New Agenda for Peace roundtable (with Stimson Center). *Geneva*

Feb 8-9: IPU Annual Parliamentary Hearing at the UN. *New York*

Mar 1: World Future Day and Nuclear Remembrance Day. *Online*

Mar 21-22: PNND Assembly, *Geneva*

Mar 23-27: IPU Assembly. *Geneva*

April 11-12: Swiss FDFA International Cooperation Forum. *Basel*

May 7-8. Global Futures Forum. *Nairobi.*

May 24: International Women's Day for Peace and Disarmament. *Basel event on the UN Summit of the Future*

June 29 – July 3. OSCE Parliamentary Assembly. *Bucharest, Romania. Side events and advocacy*

August 5 – 17: NPT Preparatory Meeting, *Geneva*

August 6-9: Hiroshima and Nagasaki Days. *Online*

Aug 29: UN International Day Against Nuclear Tests. *Geneva event (likely in first week of September)*

Sep 21-Oct 2: UN High Level period and 2 weeks of action. Includes UN Day for Peace, UN Summit for the Future, UN Day for the Elimination of Nuclear Weapons, NY Climate Week and UN Day for Nonviolence. *New York and online*

Oct 4-30. UNGA Disarmament Committee. *New York*

Nov 11-24: COP29. *Baku, Azerbaijan*

Nov 25-29: 5th Session of the UN Conference on Establishing a Middle East Zone free of WMD. *New York.*